YAMAGUCHI et al. Appl. No. 09/849,364 October 16, 2003

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4-8 and 10 are now pending.

Claims 9, 11 and 12 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form. Claims 9, 11 and 12 have been canceled above and therefore this rejection is now moot.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

By:

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

Michelle N. Lester

Reg. No. 32,331

MNL:slj

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor

Arlington, VA 22201-4714 Telephone: (703) 816-4000 Facsimile: (703) 816-4100